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Staff for rural sanitation work.

* 596 *Q.*—Mr. M. B. Rangaswami Reddi: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state the necessity for six Health Officers and five Health Inspectors for rural sanitation work separately?

A.—There are six rural sanitation units. Each unit consists of a Second-class Health Officer and a Health Inspector except the sixth unit, which has a compounder in place of the Health Inspector. The rural sanitation units are engaged on an educative campaign on hookworm disease and soil pollution, hookworm survey and mass treatments for hookworm infestation, and construction of bore-hole and other cheap latrines in villages. A unit works on an average for three years in each district.

The present district health staff is quite inadequate for the routine health work in villages and so a special staff with special training is necessary for this special branch of work.

Employment of women as vaccinators.

* 597 *Q.*—Mrs. K. Alamelumangathayaramma: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the minimum qualification prescribed for the post of vaccinators is;

(*b*) how many women there are who are employed as vaccinators by the Government; and

(*c*) since when women have been employed as vaccinators?

A.—(*a*) Direct recruitment to posts of vaccinators included in the Madras Public Health Subordinate Service is only in the second class and the qualifications for appointment as second-class vaccinators are as follows:—

(1) The candidate should possess the minimum educational qualification prescribed in the general rules relating to subordinate services.

(2) He should be able to read and write the vernacular language of the taluk in which he is employed, shall have completed a course of training in vaccination prescribed by the Director of Public Health and should in the opinion of the appointing authority be physically fit for camp life.

A vaccinator, second class, shall not be eligible for promotion to the first class unless—

(1) he possesses the qualifications prescribed by the Government for appointment as a Sanitary Inspector or a Sub-Assistant Surgeon;

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(2) he is able to read and write at least two vernacular languages of the Presidency of Madras;

(3) he has completed a course of training in vaccination at the King Institute, Guindy; and

(4) he is in the opinion of the appointing authority physically fit for camp life.

(b) & (c) Government employ vaccinators only in the Agency. None of these vaccinators is a woman.

Diwan Bahadur A. APPADURAI PILLAI :—" May I know, Sir, whether there is any objection to the employment of women as vaccinators? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" There is no objection at all, Sir."

Diwan Bahadur A. APPADURAI PILLAI :—" May I know, whether the Government will consider the desirability of appointing women vaccinators if they are prepared to come forward and if a number of qualified women are available? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" I do not think qualified women vaccinators are available in any large numbers."

Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur :—" Will Government be pleased to advise the local boards to see that a certain number of women are appointed as vaccinators? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" It is not possible to do so, as there are no women vaccinators available."

Co-operation

Help rendered by the Provincial Weavers' Co-operative Society to the handloom weavers of the province.

* 598 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) what work has the Board of Directors of the Provincial Weavers' Co-operative Society turned out so far to help the handloom weavers of this province;

(b) how many affiliated societies have so far been started in each district and what they are; and

(c) how long this work is likely to continue and whether the Government of India have agreed to pay grants for this work every year?

A.—(a) It is not possible to state in answer to a question what the society has done. It may, however, be briefly stated that the society started business on 12th August 1935. It has appointed its Secretary, Marketing Officer and six district supervisors. The Secretary is chiefly employed in collecting subscriptions and generally looking to the